



**SARACENS**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

## Newsletter

**October 2018**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful and busy first half-term at Saracens High School. It seems a long time ago that we had Sarah and Sean, the two Saracens players, handing out the pupils' House ties while BBC Radio 4, BBC London, and The Daily Telegraph, among others were reporting our opening. There is so much to celebrate from the last six weeks.



My highlights have been seeing how the pupils have risen to the challenges of the staff, particularly how they have accepted the notion of making mistakes and attempting to climb out of the learning pit. I have enjoyed watching staff create new opportunities for pupils in lessons and enrichment activities, the way pupils work together and share responsibilities at family lunch, and my conversations with pupils when we celebrate Hot Chocolate Friday.

During the first couple of weeks focused on getting to know the pupils as individuals and then we progressed to targeting challenge activities, making sure that every individual is stretched and supported appropriately in each lesson.

We have hosted a lot of visitors during the half-term, including our friends from Saracens, Headteachers from other secondary and primary schools, members of the local community, and colleagues from the local authority.

Everyone has been impressed with how smart the pupils look, how polite and kind they are, and how articulate and engaging they are in conversation. We also had a lot of visitors for the open evening and open mornings, when we think we had around 600 people come to see what we do and hear about our vision.

Our shared values are discipline, hard work, honesty, and humility. These were created by one of the former Saracens Rugby coaches, who was thinking about the qualities that successful people tend to have. By joining the Saracens organisation, we are committing to living those values. Pupils have been encouraged to think about what that means in their daily lives, both in school and at home. Please have a conversation with them about this, and see how our values can have a positive impact on their lives.

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing half-term break

**Dr Stevens**

**Principal**

### **Upcoming term dates**

Monday 29 October Back to school

Friday 21 December Last day of term

Monday 7 January Staff training (no pupils)

Tuesday 8 January First day of term for pupils

## Saracens Rugby Club

Around 100 staff, pupils, and family members went to Allianz Park on 23 September 2018 to watch Saracens play Gloucester. It was an exciting day, with Saracens winning comfortably, but our highlight was when the pupils and staff were introduced to the crowd at half-term.

Miss Morphitis, a long-time Saracens season ticket holder, and Dr Stevens did a brief interview which was shown on the big screen, and we walked around the pitch as the fans welcomed us to the Saracens family. It was a fantastic afternoon and we hope it to be the first of many such opportunities.



### Attendance

100%

Congratulations to the 73 children who have 100% attendance so far this year.

Do you know that missing just one and a half days in a half term means that a pupil can only achieve 95% attendance for that period?

A number of pupils suffered from the stomach bug that was going around and that cost them a couple of days in school. It is not a problem as long as they come to school every day for the rest of the academic year.

Every year there is a statistically significant relationship between pupils' attendance and punctuality, and examination outcomes. When pupils miss lessons it is often difficult to catch up with all the information that has been missed, so we always try to encourage those who feel a little unwell to stay in class. This is important because there may be times when they are too ill to come to school and we need to limit the overall impact of not being in lessons. Our target for every pupil is to achieve an attendance of at least 97%, which is no more than 6 days off during the whole school year.

### Uniform

We have received a lot of positive comments about the uniform and how pupils wear it with pride. As we enter the colder part of the year, please remember that coats need to be plain black with no brands or logos. Other makes are also suitable, but an option is the black coat available online from uniform4kids, our uniform suppliers <https://www.uniform4kids.com/Item/RS160Black>

## Our History Month 2018

On Monday 15 October the whole of Saracens High School set off on our first school trip. As part of our celebrations of Our History Month, we went to the local RAF Museum.

Our day included a workshop on the local history of the area and aviation.

We had the opportunity to try on real uniforms worn by pilots who flew from the airstrip that used to be located where our school is now.



We also spent time looking around the other hangars at the different exhibitions they had.

One area that many pupils were fascinated by was the drone simulators, which gave them all a chance to take on a mission.



In groups we investigated historical sources from a range of eras to discover how the area has changed over time and how aviation has influenced those changes.

We then presented our findings back to our group, with everyone having the chance to contribute.



*The RAF museum trip was absolutely fantastic because there were lots of interesting things to see such as airplanes, helicopters, games, costumes and other cool things to see. My favourite part was the big hall with all types of aircraft.*

*My favourite aircraft was the Spitfire and guess what... you could climb on it! It looked really difficult to handle because there were hundreds of buttons. I think it was a fantastic trip!*

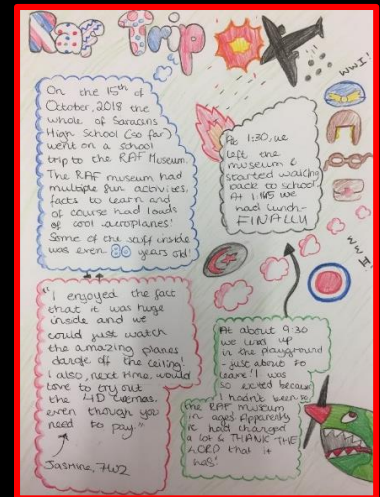
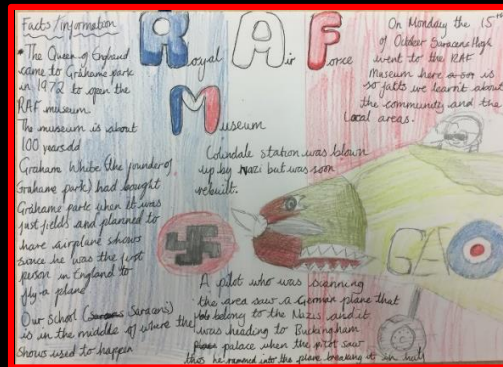
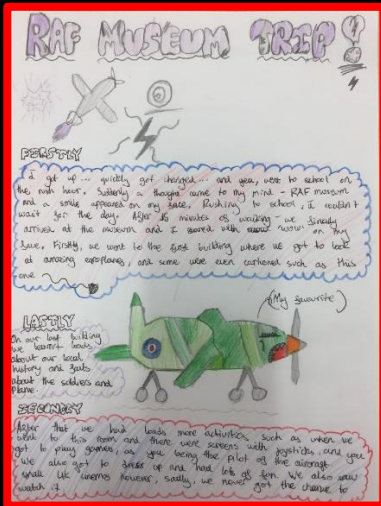
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## RAF Museum competition winners

When we returned to school, we had a chance to make posters about what we had learnt. Here is a selection of some of the most creative and the winners of the House Competition.

Congratulations to;

- 1st Place – Violet
- 2nd Place – Rezwan
- 3rd Place – Jasmine



## Mobile Phones – Important Update

Our policy on phones is that pupils should not bring them to school unless there are special circumstances or reasons for your child to have one. We have had phone thefts from adult members of our community very close to the school, including during open evening by someone who came on to the school site to steal from a parent. As the days get shorter and streets and alleyways get darker we are concerned that our pupils could become victims of crime. The vast majority of children currently bringing phones to school could finish the school day and go home to pick up their phones before going out. Pupils may think that our policy is inconvenient, but their safety must be our priority. Some pupils think having a phone makes them safe in case there is an emergency, but according to our Police Safer Schools officer, PC Thomas, they are much more at risk by having it.

From half-term we are asking parents and carers who would like their child to bring a phone to school to complete a form, explaining the need for a phone to be brought in. To balance the risk, this must be a significant reason for the pupil to need the phone (such as picking up siblings, etc). We ask that in all other cases, the phone is left at home

## Cashless School

A big thank you to parents and carers for using our Arbor online payments system, to pay for dinners and school trips. This means that we are (almost) a cashless school, which helps to keep our administrative costs down and to focus our resources on teaching and learning. If any parents are having problems using the payment system, please get in touch and we will be happy to help.

# Half-term challenges

## Our History Month

As part of Our History Month, all pupils are completing a home learning task to interview someone about their history of migrating either within or between countries.

The deadline for this project is 31/10/18.

More details on Arbor and Doodle.

## Geography

Got some spare time over half term? How about trying one of the Geography Half Term Challenges.

1. 2018 Young Geographer Photography Competition
2. TV reviews
3. Oceans are not rubbish competition



Details on Arbor and Doodle.

## Science

Scientists have impressed Ms Latif and Mr Islam with their enthusiasm, excitement and general contribution.

A great start however - the sky is the limit and so next term we will try and fly further.

Half term project: To create a revision booklet for 'someone who has no idea' about parts of a microscope and how they work.

Also; Mr Islam and Ms Latif want your reviews, please write a page spread on your half term in Science, good things, things you feel should improve. We value your honesty.

## Music

Thank you to all pupils for their effort and making the Music area as vibrant as it is. We are running two inter-house poster competitions.

- Your favourite band/artist, including some of their life, most famous songs, music style and quotes
- A Drumming Poster about African Drumming.

This is of course optional.

## Maths - Daily Challenge



### Goal

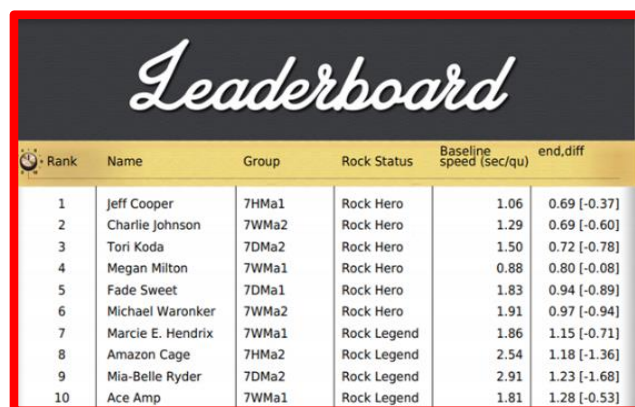
When it comes to Maths, times tables and divisions are a core foundation. Knowing times tables with both **speed** and **accuracy** help us spot patterns and relationships across all topics in Mathematics, including fractions, ratio, scale factor and sequences. Times tables are, of course, also central to arithmetic and mental maths strategies.

Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help pupils truly master the times tables.

For this reason, all pupils have their own login at Saracens High School.

We also ROLL OUR TABLES **every day**. Not sure what that means? Ask your child! To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12x12 in less than 3 seconds!

**Huge congratulations to the pupils achieving the TOP 10 SPEEDS this term!**



Leaderboard					
Rank	Name	Group	Rock Status	Baseline speed (sec/qu)	end.diff
1	Jeff Cooper	7HMa1	Rock Hero	1.06	0.69 [-0.37]
2	Charlie Johnson	7WMa2	Rock Hero	1.29	0.69 [-0.60]
3	Tori Koda	7DMa2	Rock Hero	1.50	0.72 [-0.78]
4	Megan Milton	7WMa1	Rock Hero	0.88	0.80 [-0.08]
5	Fade Sweet	7DMa1	Rock Hero	1.83	0.94 [-0.89]
6	Michael Waronker	7WMa2	Rock Hero	1.91	0.97 [-0.94]
7	Marcie E. Hendrix	7WMa1	Rock Legend	1.86	1.15 [-0.71]
8	Amazon Cage	7HMa2	Rock Legend	2.54	1.18 [-1.36]
9	Mia-Belle Ryder	7DMa2	Rock Legend	2.91	1.23 [-1.68]
10	Ace Amp	7WMa1	Rock Legend	1.81	1.28 [-0.53]

## Extra-curricular activities

Our enrichment programme for the next half-term is about to grow! Saracens Sports Foundation will soon be starting coaching sessions in Cheerleading, Dance, and Rugby! Days and times will be published as soon as they are available.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School			Science Practical Skills Mrs Halai		
Lunchtime		Film Club Miss Chilton	Podcast Club Mr Gibbons		
			Debating Club Mrs Halai		
After School 3.30pm-4.30pm	Fitness Miss O'Hanlon	Meetings	Young Language Leaders Mrs Bonilla	Netball Miss O'Hanlon	Orchestra Mr Guez
	Global Club Miss Morphitis		Football Mr Mitman Miss Copeland	Band Club Mr Guez	
	Creative Club Miss Frankham		Choir Mr Guez		
	Drumming Club Mr Guez		Public Speaking Club Miss Style		

**SARACENS RADIO** is now up and running on the school website. For 5 weeks, an ever growing team of pupil presenters (under the watchful eye of Mr Gibbons) present news stories and give their opinions on each story told. Once the recording is finished and edited, Mr Gibbons sends it to all the Learning Coaches for them to play during their respective Learning Group sessions



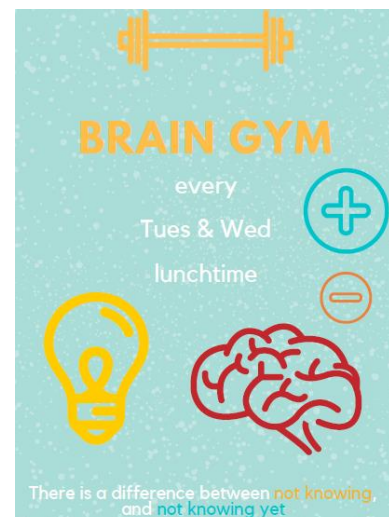
**CREATIVE CLUB** have been getting Christmassy! Yes, it's only October but Christmas will soon be here. Therefore, if you want to be involved in the first ever Saracens High School Season's Greetings card, come along to Creative club every Monday 3.30pm-4.30pm

### BRAN GYM

The Maths room is open every Tuesday and Wednesday lunch time for Maths Brain Gym. Pupils are able to use mini-whiteboards, manipulatives and their books to support and tutor one another on topics they wish to improve.

### SHOUT OUTS!

Well done to Tokky, Safiy, Rayshaun, Mustafa, Amna, Zulekha, Briana, Aran, and Rezwan for being our most active members!



## eSafety

### Fortnite

We know that many of our pupils are starting to play the game Fortnite.

As with most online activities there are some risks that young people often aren't aware of, and they need adults to help them to remain safe.

Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12, due to the: 'frequent scenes of mild violence. It is not suitable for persons under 12 years of age'.

As Fortnite is an online game you will play against players of different ages from across the world. You cannot choose who you play against, and players may be exposed to swearing and offensive language from strangers, either through audio or on-screen text chat.

The UK Safer Internet Centre suggests that family members:

- Have an open and honest conversation with young players
- Play with them
- Know how to make a report
- See what other people think of Fortnite

### Social Media

Young people need to be 13 years old before they can have social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. If you decide that your child should have an account when they turn 13, please monitor the account regularly and research safety for parents to stay up to date with the latest risks.

## Parent/Carer questionnaire

Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire at the Learning Coach evening. We feel very fortunate to work with such supportive families, and we appreciate your feedback. We also value your honest comments regarding areas we can improve and we will aim to do so in the coming weeks and months.

